

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 19, 2005

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 12, 2005

SENATE BILL

No. 640

Introduced by Senator Escutia

February 22, 2005

An act relating to child care, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 640, as amended, Escutia. Child care: ~~pupils with disabilities~~
children with exceptional needs.

Existing law, the Child Care and Development Services Act, provides for a system of child care and development services for children, including children with exceptional needs, by public and private child care providers.

This bill would appropriate \$5,000,000 from one-time only federal quality carryover funds within the State Department of Education for purposes of funding, beginning in the 2005-06 fiscal year, state-funded child care resource and referral programs for certain activities related to child care and development services with respect to serving children with ~~disabilities~~ *exceptional needs*.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (1) A compelling body of research demonstrates that early
- 4 identification and intervention for young children with

1 disabilities results in a decrease in the need for special education
2 placements upon arrival in the public school system.

3 (2) A large number of children receive child care through
4 licensed family day care, child care centers, and in
5 license-exempt care.

6 (3) Training and technical assistance enhances the ability of a
7 child care provider to identify and accommodate the needs of
8 young children with disabilities.

9 (4) Child care resource and referral programs are uniquely
10 suited to provide training and technical assistance to assist child
11 care providers increase their ability to serve children with
12 ~~disabilities~~ *exceptional needs*.

13 (5) As the single state-funded entity that serves all parents
14 regardless of income, child care resource and referral programs
15 are uniquely suited to assist the families of children with
16 exceptional needs become aware of their rights to access child
17 care services and to connect families with the services available
18 in their community.

19 (b) It is therefore the intent of the Legislature that children
20 with ~~disabilities~~ *exceptional needs* be fully included in child care
21 programs.

22 SEC. 2. The sum of five million dollars (\$5,000,000) is
23 hereby appropriated from one-time only federal quality carryover
24 funds within the State Department of Education for the purposes
25 of funding, beginning in the 2005-06 fiscal year, state-funded
26 child care resource and referral programs, for the following
27 activities related to child care and development services:

28 (a) For the purposes of increasing the capacity of state
29 subsidized and nonstate subsidized child care providers to serve
30 children with ~~disabilities~~ *exceptional needs* in child care settings
31 that meet their developmental needs, consistent with the intent of
32 the Child Care and Development Services Act pursuant to
33 Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 8200) of Part 6 of the
34 Education Code. A child care resource and referral agency may
35 expend funds granted to it pursuant to this subdivision for any of
36 the following:

37 ~~(1) To contract for various purposes that may include, but are~~
38 ~~not limited to, providing training and technical assistance to child~~
39 ~~care and development providers.~~

~~(2) To conduct awareness and outreach to child care and development providers to increase their awareness of available services and to parents of children with disabilities to increase their awareness of their rights to accessible child care and to increase their awareness of available services, provided that the activities contracted for further the purposes of this subdivision.~~

~~(1) To provide child care referrals to parents seeking child care for their children with exceptional needs, or at high risk of being identified as having exceptional needs, and parental support as necessary.~~

~~(2) To contract for various purposes that may include, but are not limited to, providing training and technical assistance to child care and development providers to increase their capacity to care for children with exceptional needs, or at high risk of being identified as having exceptional needs.~~

~~(3) To conduct awareness and outreach to child care and development providers to increase their knowledge and understanding of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to accommodate children with exceptional needs, or at high risk of being identified as having exceptional needs and to increase their awareness of available support services to assist them meet the needs of all children.~~

~~(4) To conduct awareness and outreach to parents of children with exceptional needs, or at high risk of being identified as having exceptional needs, to increase their understanding of their rights to accessible child care and to increase their awareness of available services, provided that the activities contracted for further the purposes of this subdivision.~~

(b) The State Department of Education shall develop an allocation plan to distribute funds appropriated pursuant to this section. The allocation plan shall be developed using the ratio of the number of children ages birth to 12 years, inclusive, within each county to the total number of children in the state who are birth to 12 years of age. The county allocation shall be developed by applying the county ratio to the five million dollars (\$5,000,000) after a minimum allocation of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) is set aside for the smallest counties.

~~(c) State funded child care resource and referral programs interested in applying for the available funds shall submit a~~

1 ~~proposal to the State Department of Education for the use of the~~
2 ~~funds, including a plan for the percentage of funds to be used for~~
3 ~~each of the purposes set forth in subdivision (a).~~

4 *(c) A state-funded child care resource and referral program*
5 *interested in applying for the available funds shall submit a*
6 *proposal to the State Department of Education for the use of the*
7 *funds, based on identified community needs and include a plan of*
8 *how the approved activities will be implemented at the local*
9 *level.*

10 *(d) The State Department of Education, in coordination with*
11 *the California Child Care Resource and Referral Network, shall*
12 *develop a uniform reporting process to obtain data on the use*
13 *and effectiveness of these funds.*